

K-12 Funding Analysis for Washington State

Presented To The
Washington Learns
Steering Committee

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Washington Learns Interim Report

“We must raise educational attainment in Washington through a world-class, learner-focused education system in order to compete globally and thrive locally.”



Washington Learns Focus

- **Transformational, not incremental**
- **Immediate actions**
 - Reduce dropout rate
 - Help all students meet academic standards
 - Skills and knowledge for career choice and success
- **Future includes deeper, broader look at the entirety of the Washington education system**



Our Goal for Washington

- **Effective – all proposals will have evidence that they work**
- **Strategic – keep standards the same and vary learning time**
- **Efficient – emphasis on learning to standards in the core subjects – math, science, language arts, social studies**
- **Cost Effective and realistic**



Fit Study Findings to Washington

- **Approach is highly interactive**
- **We seek input from the Advisory and Steering Committees**
- **Need to take general bodies of evidence and mold to the Washington specifics**
- **We are both firm and responsive – we stand by the evidence but tailor to the state context and state desires**



Proposed Study

- **Three tasks**
 - **Financial analysis**
 - Integrated adequacy study using successful district and evidence-based approaches
 - Focus on effectiveness and efficiency
 - Propose a performance-based salary structure
 - **Additional study questions**
 - Assessment of current funding structure
 - Development of system that responds to results of the study
 - **Reporting**
 - Highly interactive approach



Integrated Adequacy Study

- **Successful district**
 - **Issues**
 - Criteria to identify successful districts
 - Address educational challenges of districts
 - Variation over time
 - **Approach**
 - Data analysis
 - Field studies



Integrated Adequacy Study

- **Evidence-Based**
 - Identify educational delivery strategies with evidence of effectiveness
 - Sources of Evidence
 - Experimental design
 - Other peer reviewed research
 - Best practice generally
 - Best practices within Washington
 - Create detailed resource specifications
 - Develop prototypical school designs



Integrated Adequacy Study

- **Evidence Based (continued)**
 - **Funding adjustments**
 - Student characteristics
 - District characteristics
 - Regional funding challenges
- **Educator compensation structure**



Additional Study Questions

- **Efficient and effective practice**
- **Categorical programs**
- **Accountability for serving special student populations**
 - **We would add all students to this**
- **Redesign of grant based programs**
- **Simplify rules and regulations**



Study Links to K-12

Interim Report Recommendations

- **Intensive academic support for high school students**
- **Adult mentor for each student in grades 6-12**
- **Track college readiness**
- **Indicators of program effectiveness**
- **Career pathway**



Picus & Associates

Previous Experience

- **Early Work**
- **Recent Adequacy Projects**
 - Kentucky
 - Arkansas
 - Arizona
 - Wisconsin
 - Wyoming
- **Firm's strategic goal is to develop long term relationships with a limited number of states**



Lawrence O. Picus & Associates

- **National Expertise**
 - Picus and Odden
- **Washington Expertise**
 - Plecki
- **Technical Capacity**
 - Wide range of consultants with flexibility to meet Task Force needs



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